

## PLEISTOCENE FOSSIL VERTEBRATES FROM THE FITZROY RIVER, WEST KIMBERLEY, W.A.

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Through the good offices of Mr. Leslie Kingsmill, the Trustees have received an interesting collection of remains of Pleistocene Vertebrates obtained in the course of excavating a tank on Quambun Station, Fitzroy Crossing, about 170 miles by road from Derby.

Mr. E. S. Birch, the donor, states that the site of the tank is in a "slight depression covered with Bon timber (Coolibah), between fairly high sand hills that run S.W. by W." The first part of the excavation was in a stiff, dark slate-coloured clay five feet thick; this was followed by "conglomerate tightly cemented together," which varied in thickness and covered the lighter and softer bone-bearing clay.

As the work was done by ploughs, most of the bones are in a fragmentary condition, the only perfect ones being vertebrae and the bones of the manus and pes. In consequence of this and because of our lack of knowledge of the appendicular skeleton of extinct Macropods, etc., the number of specimens that can be identified with certainty is comparatively few.

It is interesting to be able to report the discovery of remains of an extinct Crocodile, though the presence of this reptile might be expected in the tropical part of W.A., as it is already known from Northern Queensland.

*Macropus anak*, Owen: An extinct kangaroo, has a very wide range, for it has been recorded from all the Australian States except Victoria. In Western Australia it has previously been obtained in the Mammoth Cave, near Cape Leeuwin and Balladonia.

### *Crocodylus* sp.

The identified specimens consist of two teeth and a nuchal scute.

### *Phascolonus gigas*, Owen.

Fragments of a right upper incisor and a left lower incisor, pieces of ribs, and an imperfect atlas vertebra represent this species in the collection.

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*Macropus anak*, Owen.

A fragmentary maxilla bearing the molars  $M^2$  and  $M^3$ , and a right lower incisor have been identified as belonging to this species.

De Vis found that in Queensland the bones associated with the teeth of *Macropus anak* indicated an animal much more massive than a living kangaroo of similar size; in view of this a number of bones of Macropine type, but short and heavy, are provisionally ascribed to this species. They consist of cervical, dorsal, lumbar, and caudal vertebrae, a fragmentary scapula, the distal half of a humerus, and fragments of the femur, tibia, fibula, as well as numerous more or less perfect bones of the pes.

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